

As of January 6, 2005, 734 trees have been removed from the Middlesex/Union ALB infestation site, with 436 being infested host trees and 298 high-risk exposed host trees. Crews continued to work this week in the core area of the infestation, located in West Carteret and the Avenel section of Woodbridge Township.

During this first phase of tree removals, several additional infested trees along a streambed in the Avenel section of Woodbridge, along the Carteret border, were found or were reclassified from high-risk exposed trees to infested trees. Some that had been classified as high-risk exposed trees were found to be infested after being taken down and cut open. Approximately 1,000 host trees are being removed during this first phase of cutting. More than 4,000 host trees will be removed over the next several months.

Field surveys of the infestation area continued this week, with 59,092 trees inspected to date. Sixteen program personnel from USDA APHIS PPQ, NJDA and NJ Forest Service are performing survey and regulatory activities.

On December 27, 2004 the State of New Jersey expanded the ALB quarantined area for the Carteret infestation from 10.5 square miles to 12.1 square miles. This amendment to the quarantine was due to the second infested tree, a red maple, found on Nov. 10, 2004, within the original quarantine area in the city of Rahway, NJ. Because this find was close to the western edge of the quarantine zone, the expansion was necessary. Numerous media outlets ran articles on the quarantine expansion including: *The Newark Star-Ledger*, *Home News-Tribune*, and the *Asbury Park Press*.

Additionally, the *New Jersey Journal* ran an article on the progress being made in the Jersey City ALB Program, which has not detected any additional signs of the beetle since tree removal was conducted there, and *The Gardner News* featured the program in its January 2005 issue.

On Wednesday, December 29, 2004, the New Jersey State Department of Environmental Protection, Solid Waste Management, granted a special permit to the Rahway, NJ Incinerator to burn ALB infested wood chips. To date, 38 truckloads (approximately 20 cubic yards each) of wood chips have been delivered to this site from the ALB Carteret infestation area.

On Tuesday, January 4, 2005, Nicholas Polanin, Agriculture & Resource Management Agent/State Master Gardener Program Leader for Rutgers University Cooperative Research and Extension of Somerset County, gave an ALB presentation during the North Jersey Ornamental Horticulture Symposium's "Tree Day" in Morristown. More than 200 arborists, landscapers and pest control professionals attended the event. The New Jersey ALB Program's ALB display was featured at the "Landscape Day," held the next day (January 5, 2005). Mr. Polanin will also be using the ALB display on January 11, 2005 during the Master Gardener class he will teaching in Union County.